531 Rec'd Pu.

10/018974 26 DEC 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kouichirou HIRATA et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2001 1888A

Filed December 26, 2001

METHOD FOR THE DETECTION OF STREPTOCOCCUS SOBRINUS AND ANTIBODY USED THEREFOR [Corresponding to PCT/JP01/03502 Filed April 24, 2001]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

<u>Prior to calculating the filing fee</u>, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

AI

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP01/03502 filed April 24, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the immune complex is assayed by an immunochromatographic technique.